

for example, that is even better for the economy. Why is that? Because businesses that wish to expand to modernize and to grow need that investment money. When a company expands or a new company is started, jobs are created.

So I want to give rich people an incentive to save more of their money instead of spending it. That is why it is so important for the economy to cut the tax on savings and investment. It is all about jobs.

□ 1030

#### A BUDGET AGREEMENT THAT TAKES AMERICA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget agreement that was reached here the last few days and hours is not just financially sound, it is also philosophically sound, because it begins to address some of the fundamental problems and inequities in our tax system.

In this country we value our families and our children, yet our tax system punishes those who want to start a family. This plan promotes families by providing a child tax credit. In this country we value frugality and saving for a rainy day, yet our current tax system punishes those who save. The budget agreement promotes saving by providing for expanded IRA accounts, and gives incentives for those who want to put away for retirement.

Finally, in America we are taught to value hard work and the things that go with it, like being able to provide for our children when we are gone. The death tax punishes those who try to pass their property on to the next generation. This budget agreement would allow one to pass more on to their children before they have to pay taxes on it.

This budget agreement takes America in the right direction. I think that is evidenced by the fact that over 300 Members of this body, over 75 percent of this institution, supported it. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the very same thing and to support it.

#### AMERICA WANTS MEMBERS TO COORDINATE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, many people ask me, how can you come to an agreement on the balanced budget with a President whose vision for America is so much different than your own? That is a fair question. I think we should address that this morning.

The answer, of course, is with great difficulty. It is no secret that the

Democrats and Republicans have honest fundamental differences in our view of the role of government in our lives. It is no secret that the Democrats want government to have a greater role in our lives, and Republicans think that the Government's role is far too great.

It is no secret that the Democrats want to increase the size and power of government. Republicans want to reduce it. It is no secret that the Democrats think that more government can help to solve the problem of poverty. Republicans think that far from ending poverty, government welfare programs perpetuate it.

Mr. Speaker, we disagree on matters of principle, but the American people have asked us to work together to balance the budget. Let us go forward and carry out their wishes.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET AND A SMALLER GOVERNMENT

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, what a difference 4 years makes. Four years ago the President proposed the largest tax increase in U.S. history, the largest entitlement expansion in American history, and the strongest, clearest signal in U.S. history that big government, in their way of thinking, was truly the answer to all of our problems. This was in exactly the opposite direction from where many of us from across the country believe this Nation must be headed.

Now, 4 years later, I am happy to see that a majority of Americans and a majority of this Congress on both sides of the aisle agree that a reasonable government, as opposed to big government, is the way to tackle some of our more difficult problems.

Mr. Speaker, this country has been going in a direction of bigger government and higher taxes for the past 30 years. We have now signaled with action this week in passing a balanced budget, the first time in 30 years, we have signaled that we are ready to own up to our responsibilities as a Congress, Democrats and Republicans united, to pass a balanced budget. I commend the House and all my colleagues.

#### REPUBLICANS KEEP THEIR WORD TO AMERICA

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, there is something strange that has been happening here in the Capitol over the last 2½ years, something that we have not seen for quite a while. It is a group of politicians who are actually keeping their word.

In the fall of 1994, we laid out for the American people our set of promises in the Contract With America that we

would balance the Federal budget, that we would reduce taxes, we would solve the problems in Medicare, that we would deal with illegal immigration and reform it, that we would reform welfare. Guess what? All of those things are happening.

In 1995 and 1996 we had the most successful Congress in 20 years. Now, with our agreement to balance the Federal budget, to reduce taxes for American families, and to preserve and protect Medicare, we are continuing to keep the promises that we made to the American people. It is something that I am proud of in terms of my colleagues and their commitment to do what they said they would do. We are going to keep our promises.

#### FOREIGN POLICY REFORM ACT

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of our Foreign Policy Reform Act, which will be coming before the House next month. This bill is the first Republican-led foreign policy blueprint since our party wrote the Marshall plan legislation some 40 years ago.

The bill will consolidate two Federal agencies into the State Department, saving a number of employees. It will choke off aid and nuclear fuel for the Castro dictatorship, it will block aid to Russia until it stops its help to Iran, and it nails deadbeat diplomats, making sure they would be prosecuted either here or back in the host country.

This bill was endorsed by major PVOs and 40 major groups, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and many of our Irish groups. Driving this measure are a number of organizations that are supportive of what we are doing. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the Foreign Policy Reform Act that will be before us early next month.

#### COMMENDING EFFORTS OF COLLEAGUE TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I just want to real quickly say that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON] ought to be commended for what he is doing in trying to find missing children. I think that should be an example for every Member of this House, and this shows his real bipartisan support for this kind of effort.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, just as an example, this is the envelope we are using with Bianca's picture on it,